dpi notes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ISSUE No. 11, JULY - AUGUST 1991

PEACEKEEPING

Project Manager Jorge Ulate-Segura, has developed an information strategy for the public information component of ONUSAL, the UN Observation Mission in El Salvador and travelled to El Salvador to establish the groundwork. The Mission started on July 26 and a press kit, press release and poster, based on a design by an El Salvadorian artist, were distributed locally. Graphics Director, Jan Arnesen, undertook a brief visit to the country to identify elements of the graphic and print requirements. Several radio, television and print spots focusing on the protection of human rights have been prepared. Large quantities of 7 DPI publications on human rights were shipped to El Salvador for use in the public information and educational campaigns.

A press kit (DPI/1148) outlining details of the peace process has been distributed. The articles include:

- The peace process in El Salvador and the UN;
- The UN role in the Central American peace process;
- Establishment of ONUSAL (resolution 693);
- Mexico Agreements;
- San Jose Agreement on human rights;
- Agenda and schedule for the negotiation process;
- Central America: Efforts towards peace;
- Secretary-General's press communiqué.

PERSIAN GULF

UN photographer John Isaac returned from another trip to Iraq, visiting Baghdad and the southern region of Howr Al-Hammar. Accompanying the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate on Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for the region, Sadruddin Aga Khan, he was on hand to capture the conditions faced by the Iraqi civilian population, many of whom were being housed in makeshift shelters. The mission was dispatched to this area of marshland to assess the needs of the displaced persons and to set up a site to monitor relief distribution, thereby also ensuring a UN presence.

WESTERN SAHARA

As the Western Sahara operation gets under way, DPI has just published a brochure detailing a timetable of the events leading up to the conduct of a referendum, expected to be held in January 1992, in which Western Saharans will decide on their future political status. Leaving for the area in August on an information-gathering mission is Ayman El-Amir, the DPI officer charged with the task of making proposals for a full-fledged multimedia campaign for MINURSO or Mission de Nations Unies pour le Référendum au Sahara Occidental.

DRUG CONTROL

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was marked at UN Headquarters on 20 June with a briefing for NGOs and a press briefing by the newly appointed Executive Director for the UN Drug Control programme, Giorgio Giacomelli. An NGO roundtable discussion with ECOSOC delegates and the President of the International Narcotics Control Board was held and, in the afternoon, a symposium on the implementation of drug-related resolutions at the last Crime Congress.

UNIC Bogota, Harare and Sydney, tar-

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geted for that purpose, all undertook special programmes for Drug Day. A new DPI video on the subject, "High Hopes", was distributed in English to UNICs as was the S-G's message for Drug Day.

EDUCATION

The DPI Graduate Student Internship Programme concluded at HQ on 28 June. Involving 41 students from 27 countries, the three-week briefing and seminar session was centred on the theme of "Environment and Development". Speakers included officials from the UN system as well as others from academic circles who have written and lectured extensively on the subject. Many participants were pleased that, coming a year before UNCED, the programme's scope and timing exposed the complexity of issues facing the international community. A simulation exercise on the Law of the Sea was organized with the substantive department.

DEVELOPMENT

The DPI publicity efforts planned around the release of the World Economic Survey 1991 attracted the interest of financial editors at The New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Jounal and many other major newspapers in the United States, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, Japan, and other Asian countries. The Department's efforts included production of a press release in English, French and Spanish, which it delivered to the US media and by fax and E-mail to UN Information Services and Centres in time for the launch of the *Survey* on 2 July. The Department also organized a 28 June press conference by P. Goran Ohlin, Assistant Secretary-General in the Office of Development Research and Policy Analysis, DIESA, as well as press interviews by the Christian Science Monitor and Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

AWARDS

"Breaking Barriers", a UN produced, half-hour film on the disabled has most recently been awarded the prestigious SUPERFEST award at the International Media Festival on Disabilities. According to one of the organizers, it was "no contest" from the other submissions. The awards ceremony took place at the Burbank Hilton Hotel in California on 9 June 1991. Meanwhile "Our Planet Earth", a UN co-production, won the 1991 Grand Prix at the EKOFILM International Festival for films on the environment held in Czechoslovakia.

CORRECTION

***DPI Notes** issue No. 10 misstated Mahmoud El-Said's responsibilities in connection with former USG Farah's Special Mission to Kuwait this spring. Mr. El-Said served as Mission Spokesman.* ■

LOOKING AHEAD

ANNUAL NGO CONFERENCE

"Peace, Justice and Development: Ingredients for an Emerging World Order" is the theme of this year's annual NGO Conference scheduled for 11-13 September at UN HQ. The three-day conference will address how recent geo-political events present new opportunities for enhancing the role of the UN in the maintenance of peace and security, and the promotion of economic and social development. Conference sessions will also focus on the role of the media and avenues for NGO action through media presentations and speakers at informal luncheons between sessions. More than 1,000 representatives from 50 countries attended the 1990 session, one of the largest NGO gatherings in UN history.

ENVIRONMENT

A system-wide exhibit on the interface between environment and development is

being planned for the UNCED meeting in Rio de Janeiro. As the UNCED Preparatory Committee is gearing up for its August 1991 session, radio programmes have begun coverage while a special documentary TV series using independent producers is in the pipeline. A series of Earth Summit feature articles are in preparation. They will treat issues ranging from demographic pressures to the transfer of environmentally sound technology, to the Third World perspective of environment and development. Other story ideas include sustainable uses of energy, impact of the lifestyles of the rich and the very poor on the environment and attitudes of young people towards sustainable uses of marine resources.

HUMAN RIGHTS

UNICs in 21 countries were requested to submit names of senior journalists to be considered as participants for the DPI International Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations, scheduled for 14-16 October 1991 at UNHQ. A DPI coordination meeting on the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) was convened in preparation for the DPI submission to the First Preparatory Committee due to meet in September.

ANTI-APARTHEID

After Mexico City, the Spanish language travelling exhibit is due to go to Havana in August and in September and October it will be on display in Santiago. The French version is on show in Geneva in July. In October, it will travel to Aix-en-Provence.

EDUCATION

A UNA-USA National Meeting on UN Education, to be held in Denver, Colorado, from 16-18 August 1991, to discuss opportunities and challenges in classroom education and to develop and present a plan of action for the 1990s has been attended by Tina Jorgensen of DPI.

UNIC DIRECTORS' MEETING, BRUSSELS

Organized in co-operation with the Belgian Government and the European Community, the UNIC Directors' meeting for the European region is scheduled from 9-11 September in Brussels. In addition to participation by non-UN officials, a panel discussion on the "Role of the UN in Europe" is planned and discussion of areas of collaboration between the European Community and UNICs in Europe. ■

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

Unless otherwise noted, all DPI information products are available the UN Headquarters Secretariat Documents Distribution Desk, Room S-B144, Telphone: (212) 963-7368.

REFERENCE PAPERS AND INFORMATION NOTES

ONUSAL press kit. Background information on the El Salvador peace process. English and Spanish. DPI/1149.

World Economic Survey. A press release that gives an overview of the present world economic outlook, including the prospects for a slow recovery next year. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1148.

International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine. This is a summary of discussions on the possible dynamics of the Israeli/Palestinian peace process among journalists who attended the 3-day seminar held in Finland in early June. DPI/1165.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Short summaries and full texts of 15 Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Persian Gulf area, beginning with

READEX FICHE

resolution 660 adopted on 2 August 1990. Currently in English only. Arabic, French and Spanish are in production DPI/1104/Rev.2.

United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Information on the functions and composition of the Mission set up by Security Council resolution 689. English only. (PS/DPI/3)

Special Commission to Supervise Destruction of Iraq's Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Weapons. A look at the commission set up in conformity with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). English only. (PS/DPI/2)

United Nations Security Council. A introduction to how the Council works and what it has done. English only. (No DPI number)

BOOKS, BOOKLETS AND BROCHURES

The United Nations and the Referendum in Western Sahara. A brochure detailing the timetable for MINURSO, the UN Operation in Western Sahara, also provides information on the framework for a political settlement. English only. DPI/1140.

Convention on the Rights of the Child. Illustrated version of the text with an introduction giving an overview of the Convention. Intended for young people. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. DPI/1101.

The World's Women 1970-1990. A book prepared by the UN Statistical Office with data from more than 170 countries on subjects ranging from marriage patterns and child-bearing to educational trends and political clout is a sales item. In English only. Language versions will be available in late 1991. Available from UN Publications.

Earth Summit. A brochure on the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. DPI/1118.

The United Nations and Public Information. A guide for the public to UN-generated information. 40 pages plus 16 pocket inserts on UN specialized agencies and addresses of UNIC and UNDP offices. English and French. DPI/1098.

UN FOCUS SERIES

The Quest for Women's Rights. A comparison of the work of two intergovernmental bodies that deal with women's rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1144.

Ending Discrimination: A Fundamental Right. Analysis of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1008.

Assessing the Impact on Developing Countries of Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe. The Committee for Development Planning examines the epochal changes taking place in Eastern Europe and their implications for developing countries. English only. DPI/1139.

The International Trade Centre. The UN's International Trade Centre, a trade promotion body jointly sponsored by GATT and UNCTAD, advises governments on trade promotion strategies, helps businessess find openings for their products, works wtih import organizations to improve their foreign purchasing operations, and trains trade promotion officials. English only. DPI/1115.

POSTERS

For a United, Non-Racial and Democratic South Africa. Afrikaans, Arabic, English, French and Spanish. ■

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

In Moscow on 3 September, USG Sévigny told the International Conference of NGOs on the Human Dimension of World Politics that information was never more crucial than it is today for the process of developing genuine democracy. Freedom of information and expression, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she said, was the touchstone of all the rights to which the UN was dedicated. In her view, communication has become "a unifying force ... a means which can overcome divisions between people and nations and a power to assist international organizations in their service to the world community."

In Prague on 4 September, the USG elaborated on the same theme before the International Forum on Culture and Democracy chaired by President Vaclev Havel. In her statement, Mrs. Sévigny declared, "Freedom of information and freedom of expression, the two indispensable requisites for a democratic culture, have become the beacon of our life at the end of the 20th century."

In Brussels on 9 September, she urged directors of UN Information Centres in Europe to join her in embarking on "new avenues of continuous information flows, of common and integrated information programmes to reach jointly all of Europe's peoples and bring them together with the message of our interdependent world."

TELEVISION

Sunday, 18 August, marked a milestone for CNN and for UN TV. It was the 200th broadcast of CNN World Report, the unique international newscast with 180 contributors from all parts of the globe and an audience of 50 million people. UN TV has produced items for all 200 of the broadcasts; it is the only contributor to have done so. For the 200th show, the UN item was on Ethiopian refugees.

UN INFORMATION CENTRES

On 25 August, **UNIC Bangladesh** hosted a visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry's first class of trainee-officers. The trainees attended a briefing by UNIC staff, visited the Centre reference library, viewed UN new information products and discussed possibilities for future cooperation. The were accompanied by Professor Nurul Momen of the University of Dhaka, who was responsible for translating the Charter of the United Nations into Bengali.

On 8 August, in preparation for International Peace Day in September and UN Week in October, **UNIC MANILA**, in cooperation with the Theosophical Society of the Philippines and the National Press Club, launched a National Essay Contest for university students on the theme "What I Can Do to Promote Peace."

UNIC MANILA also reports Radio DWBR broadcasts daily at 6 a.m.—a prime time for radio news in Manila—a five minute feature about the work of the United Nations, using DPI'S *UN In Focus* radio programmes.

On 30 July, Senegal's Minister of State A. Wade opened a seminar on "Information, Environment and Development" organized by **UNIC DAKAR**. Forty journalists from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cap-Vert, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo attended the four-day event.

UNITED NATIONS

On 30 July, the **UN OFFICE IN GENEVA** honoured 1500 distinguished physicists, including Nobel Prize winners from 50 countries, at a reception at the Palais des Nations. The scientists were in Geneva for the Joint International Lepton-Proton Symposium and Europhysics Conference on High Energy Physics.

PUBLIC OPINION

As part of its on-going programme to test public opinion on the UN, DPI recently announced the results of its latest polls conducted in Austria and Argentina.

In the Austrian poll, an overwhelming majority (95 per cent) of respondents were familiar with the United Nations. Two-thirds of those who had heard of the Organization told interviewers they believe the UN does a good job of problem-solving. The reason most gave for giving the UN good marks is its role in peace-keeping and conflict resolution.

In July DPI announced the results of its opinion poll in Argentina, showing that 69 percent of respondents said they were aware of the Organization and 30 per cent of them called their perception of its image "good." **UNIC Buenos Aires**, which released results of the poll nationally at a press conference, reports articles and editorials on the poll were carried in La Prensa, La Nación, Página 12, the Buenos Aires Herald, and other major papers.

NGOS

On 11-13 September, DPI hosted its annual conference for Non-Governmental Organizations. This year's theme: Peace, Justice and Development: Ingredients for an Emerging World Order. Guests included among others: DIEC Director Antoine Blanca, Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, USG James O.C. Jonah, Peru's Ambassador Ricardo V. Luna; UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador Marjorie Thorpe, USG Marrack Goulding and ASG Enrique ter Horst.

MEDIA DATA BASE

DPI has developed a computerized data basis enabling it to retrieve detailed information on the content, length, language and state of production of DPI radio and video programmes on UN priority themes. It will be used to prepare reports to intergovernmental bodies and in promotional activities.

AFRICA RECOVERY

DPI launched publication of the Secretary-General's recent report on the African economic crisis with press conferences by Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in Paris; ASG Enrique ter Horst in New York and Geneva; and Salim Lone of the Africa Recovery Section in London and Brussels.

Media coverge of the report was extensive. Articles appeared in The New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, International Herald Tribune, Financial Times, London Times, Guardian, Independent, Economist, Globe and Mail (Canada), Le Monde, Le Figaro and Le Soir (Belgium). BBC TV and ITV in the UK, and Belgian TV covered the report in prime time newscasts. CNN and PBS in the US and the BBC TV World Service also covered the report.

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Development Forum has undertaken a global reader survey to update the newspaper's readership profile, help editors determine the value of the publication to its readers, and facilitate revision of the paper's mailing and paid subscription lists. UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank will cover the costs of the survey.

TRAINING

The eleventh session of the UN Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Counties takes place this year at Headquarters from 16 September to 25 October. Sixteen junior and mid-level professional journalists are expected at Headquarters for the term, which includes in-service training with DPI, attendacne at UN breifings, visits to New York media organizations and professional assignments as temporary UN correspondents for the trainees' home media organizations.

YEARBOOK

The editor of the UN Yearbook, Yobert K. Shamapande, reports work has begun on the 1991 edition of the Yearbook. Mr. Shamapande said he expects publication of the 1991 volume in November of next year. Editors will complete work on the backlog editions of 1988, 1989 and 1990 before 1993. ■

LOOKING AHEAD

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (9-10 October): On 9 October, the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction will be observed at UN Headquarters with the opening meeting of the UN Special High-Level Council for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNR). Participants in the session will include: Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand; Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica; Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, and Marilyn Quayle, wife of the US Vice-President. On 10 October, at the DPI/NGO briefing, the speakers will include James Bruce, Chairman of the UN's Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS ROUND TABLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UN (14-16 October): At a round table hosted by DPI next month, 70 journalists including international correspondents based in New York, and other journalists invited from all regions of the world, will gather at Headquarters to discuss human rights topics. Speakers will include Jan Martenson, USG for Human Rights, Dr. Dorothy Blake, Deputy Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, Sadako Ogata, High Commissioner for Refugees, and Margaret Anstee, Director General of the UN Office at Vienna.

INFORMATION FAIR (15-31 October): In the last two weeks of October, DPI will stage a major UN information fair for the public in the Public Lobby. This year's fair, which builds on the successful event held last year for the UN's 45th anniversary, will have participation from 21 UN agencies, each hosting a colorful information kiosk with staff available to answer questions.

UN DAY 1991 (24 October): UNIC WASHINGTON will hold its first major reception of the fall season in celebration of United Nations Day. The guest list for the event, to be held at the Organization of American States Building , includes members of Congress and the Diplomatic Corps, as well as White House and Federal agencies staff. The Centre's guest of honor will be former USG Joseph Verner Reed.

In Vienna on UN Day, the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra will play a benefit concert for victims of the Chernobyl disaster. Sponsors of the concert include the City of Hiroshima, the Province of Hiroshima and its business community and citizens, as well as the Hiroshima/Austrian Association. **UNIS VIENNA** is playing a major role in the concert's organization. ■

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

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BOOKS, BOOKLETS AND BROCHURES

Forty-Sixth Session Of The General Assembly. Background on the functions and powers of the General Assembly, a listing of the presidents of the Assembly from 1946 to 1990, plus the provisional agenda of the Assembly which convenes on 17 September. English and French. DPI/1164.

Earth Summit. A brochure on the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. DPI/1118.

International Decade For Natural Disaster Reduction. An introduction to the UN's efforts on behalf of disaster reduction. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1078.

REFERENCE PAPERS

Note for Speakers. In anticipation of Earth Summit '92—the UN Conference on Environment and Development—the latest edition of DPI's series of notes for speakers is devoted exclusively the issues of environment and development. English only. DPI/1183.

UNAVEM II. Background on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). English only. PS/DPI/5.

ONUSAL—El Salvador. Press kit on the peace process in El Salvador and the United Nations, plus texts of the Mexico aggrements and San Jose Agreement. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1149.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions Relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Short summaries and full texts of 15 resolutions adopted by the Security Council between 2 August 1990, the date of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and 9 April 1991. Arabic, English, French and Spanish. DPI/1104/Rev.2.

United Nations Security Council. An introduction to how the Council works and what it has done. English only. PS/DPI/4.

UN FOCUS SERIES

Assessing the Impact on Developing Countries of Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe. The Committee for Development Planning examines the epochal changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the implications for the developing countries. English, French, Spanish. DPI/1139.

MAGAZINES

UN CHRONICLE. The magazine's September cover story commemorates the 40th anniversary of UNHCR. English only. No DPI number.

SPEECHES BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL/DPI

Texts of addresses by USG Thérèse P. Sévigny are available from her office, Room S-1027a, United Nations, NY 10017. The following are recent statements on communications:

Statement to the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Human Dimension of World Politics. Moscow. 3 September 1991. English only.

Statement to the International Forum on Culture and Democracy. Prague. 4-6 September 1991. English and French.

Statement to the Regional Meeting of UN Information Centre Directors in Europe. Brussels. 9 September 1991. English and French. ■

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